United Nations A/70/831–S/2016/345

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
21 April 2016

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 72 (c)
Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 13 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the ongoing oppression of the Crimean Tatars (see annex).

I therefore wish to reiterate my Government's strong request to you to convey to the Russian Federation a strong message in order to make the Russian Federation comply with the Charter of the United Nations and provisions of General Assembly resolution 68/262 entitled "Territorial integrity of Ukraine", as well as international treaties, and de-occupy Crimea. I also call on you to condemn in the strongest terms the so-called decision of the occupying prosecution of the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Ukraine, suspending activities of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people.

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 72 (c), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr Yelchenko
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 13 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the ongoing oppression of the Crimean Tatars

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine expresses its strong protest against the so-called decision of the occupying prosecution on the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Ukraine, suspending activities of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people.

This decision has become yet another step in a chain of crimes of the Russian occupation authorities against representatives of the Crimean Tatars, the indigenous people of Crimea. We consider such actions to be a violation by the Russian Federation, as an occupying State, of its obligations under international law as well as of its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

Over the past two years, the Kremlin has turned the Crimean peninsula into an area of harassment, intimidation and persecution, and mass violations of fundamental rights and freedoms.

In this light, the accusations against the Mejlis of carrying out extremist activity sound particularly cynical.

Despite strong condemnation by Ukraine and other democratic countries of the Russian aggression against Ukraine and the occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, the Kremlin continues to pursue aggressive actions against Ukraine, thus openly neglecting international law and the just demands of the entire civilized world.

Ukraine calls on all democratic countries to combine efforts for the sake of the de-occupation of Crimea and to demand that the occupying State immediately stop the massive violations of fundamental rights and freedoms in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and provide access to the temporarily occupied territory of Crimea to international organizations to carry out constant monitoring of the human rights situation.